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LETTER DATED 20 APRIL 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CROATIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Upon instructions of my Government I should like to inform you that approximately 200 to 300 soldiers of the Army of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia have today entered the demilitarized zone established pursuant to an agreement between the Republic of Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia dated 15 September 1992, confirmed in Security Council resolution 779 (1992). The violation in the demilitarized zone occurred in the area of the access road to the border crossing points opened in agreement with the Montenegrin authorities.

This act violates the agreement between the two States and the relevant Security Council resolutions. Furthermore, in effect it nullifies progress hitherto achieved in establishing and maintaining security and stability in the area of Prevlaka.

We recall that the Secretary-General in his report (S/1999/404) stated that the opening of the border crossing point at Debeli Brijeg "was welcomed by the Security Council in resolution 1222 (1999) as a significant confidence-building measure in the normalization of relations between the two parties ...".

In this particular situation the blocking of traffic through the border crossing point at Debeli Brijeg may deal a heavy blow to ongoing international efforts to provide humanitarian assistance to the displaced population of Kosovo.

The Republic of Croatia calls upon the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to immediately withdraw its forces from the demilitarized zone and the Security Council to ensure strict compliance with its resolutions pertaining to the Prevlaka issue.

I should like to request your assistance in circulating the present letter as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ivan ŠIMONOVIĆ
Permanent Representative

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